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In China, while the economy grew steadily and new emphasis was placed on legal reform, the Chinese government continued to commit widespread and well-documented abuses in violation of international norms. Overall in 1995, the authorities stepped up repression of dissent, and by year's end, almost all public dissent against the central administration had been silenced.

This year the United States will again join with other countries in co-sponsoring a resolution on China in the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

In Russia, while communism has been replaced by democracy, the future is uncertain. 1995 saw continued and widespread use of military force against civilians in Chechnya, the undermining of official institutions established to monitor human rights in Russia, and the continued violation of rights and liberties by security forces. The United States has repeatedly condemned, both publicly and privately, the serious human rights abuses in Chechnya.

Nigeria presents a classic picture of human rights abuse as the regime of General Sani Abacha has ruthlessly suppressed dissent. The U.S. is working with other countries closely to press Nigeria to change.

The situation in Colombia has not improved, owing to entrenched conflict among security forces, guerrilla armies, paramilitary units and narco-traffickers, and 90 percent of all crimes go unpunished. Similarly, Guatemala registered more political killings than elsewhere in Latin America, despite some success in the peace process.

→ Indonesian security forces in East Timor and Irian Jaya were responsible for significant abuses, although the government was willing in some cases to prosecute those charged with abuses.

Outposts of unreconstructed totalitarianism remain in Iran, Iraq, Cuba and Libya. Severe human rights problems persist in North Korea despite progress on some other issues under the agreed framework.

In Burma, the State Law and Order Restoration Council continued to rule with an iron hand and to commit a wide range of serious human rights violations, although the release from house arrest of democratically-elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi was a positive development.

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on the transfer of strategic nuclear material.

MR. GREEN: (Off mike.)

Q Mr. Shattuck, thank you very much. I'm (name and affiliation inaudible) Indonesia. And your report doesn't mention any improvement of the situation of human rights in East Timor, as well as the attitude of the Indonesian government towards East Timor. Could you elaborate what is your (position ?) about that?

And also, I wanted to ask about the -- what the U.S. -- what will be the U.S. position on the (resolution ?) of East Timor at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva? Thank you.

MR. SHATTUCK: Well, I had last year -- about April of last year a very wonderful and, in many ways, moving trip to East Timor -- I was the first assistant secretary of state for the United States to travel to East Timor -- and also an extended trip in Indonesia and very extensive discussions with the government of Indonesia and the

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military and the authorities on East Timor, as well as many non-governmental organizations.

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We were pleased during the course of this year to see that some of the very serious and longer-term problems that have plagued East Timor in the area of human rights were addressed at least in part by the government of Indonesia.

First there were several prosecutions of military people who had engaged in human rights abuses, killings and disappearances. And that was, as far as I know, the first time that issue of impunity had been addressed very explicitly in the East Timor context.

Second, there were some troop withdrawals from East Timor so that the situation could become somewhat less tense, and the people of East Timor could, hopefully, breath more freely on the subject of security and their ability to express themselves.

But let me be very clear that we continue to see the situation in East Timor to be serious and that there are continuing human rights abuses, and the very heavy presence of a large number of Indonesian troops on the Island of East Timor makes it very difficult for Indonesian citizens who live on East Timor to actively participate in their own governments and their local government situation.

At the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva we will work closely with the European Union and the -- particularly the government of Portugal, on the East Timor situation. Last year there was a chairman statement issued by the chairman of the Human Rights Commission, which the United States supported, and if that occurs again, we will again support such a statement.

Q Mr. Ambassador, my question is about crime and punishment. And you can guess I'm from Bosnia -- (affiliation inaudible) -- Bosnia-Hercegovina. My name is (Inver Semivonic ?). I met you in Dayton and you were full of optimism before a trip to Bosnia. When I read the report from Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia I was quite disappointed, but it is just my point of view. Tell me, is it fair to say that the United States are closing their eyes because of Milosevic and everything what that guy has done? His position was a butcher of Balkans, but now he is good guy; am I right?

MR. SHATTUCK: The United States is the leading supporter and constant financial and other backer of the International War Crimes Tribunal, based in The Hague, whose responsibility it is to prosecute persons who are responsible for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. The tribunal has now issued 53 indictments.

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